

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OREP, CS
SUBJECT: CODEL REUSS - TRIP REPORT

1. CODEL REUSS WOUND UP ITS THREE-WEEK TOUR OF SIX LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES WITH A THREE-DAY VISIT TO COSTA RICA, JANUARY 12-15. THE CODEL'S JOINT ACTIVITIES INCLUDED (A)

AN EMBASSY BRIEFING; (B) A BRIEFING ON THE IDB PROGRAM IN COSTA RICA BY LOCAL IDB REP; (C) RECEPTION HOSTED BY AMBASSADOR FOR BROAD SPECTRUM OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS INCLUDING ECONOMIC POLICY MAKERS, INTERNATIONAL AGENCY LOCAL REPS, AND COSTA RICAN AND LOCAL AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN; (D) A TWO-HOUR MEETING WITH PRESIDENT DANIEL ODUBER QUIROS; (E) A BRIEFING BY ICE, THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED ELECTRIC POWER AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY; AND (F) A VISIT TO IDB ASSISTED PROJECTS IN THE CARTAGO AREA. IN ADDITION TO THE CODEL'S JOINT ACTIVITIES, INDIVIDUAL CODEL MEMBERS (SINGLY OR IN SMALL GROUPS) TOOK PART IN (A) VISIT TO IDB PROJECTS IN THE PUNTARENAS AREA; (B) BRIEFING ON NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM WITH VISIT TO POAS NATIONAL PARK; AND (C) VISIT OVER PARK OF THE ROUTE OF PROPOSED NEW

LIMON-SAN JOSE HIGHWAY TO BE FINANCED BY WORLD BANK.
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2. MEDIA COVERAGE WAS MODERATE AND LESS THAN EXPECTED DUE TO ASSASSINATION OF PEDRO CHAMORRO, AN EVENT WHICH DOMINATED MEDIA COVERAGE DURING PERIOD OF CODEL VISIT. NEVERTHELESS, USIS PHOTO OF REUSS ARRIVAL WAS FRONT PAGED BY JANUARY 13 EXCELSIOR AND SAN JOSE NEWS AND USIS PHOTOS OF CODEL SESSION WITH PRESIDENT ODUBER CARRIED IN

JANUARY 14 EXCELSIOR AND LA REPUBLICA.

3. THE HIGHLIGHT OF CODEL VISIT WAS A TWO HOUR MEETING AT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE JANUARY 13 WITH PRESIDENT DANIEL ODUBER. DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT COVERED TRADE ISSUES, RELATIONS WITH CUBA, HUMAN RIGHTS, HOW TO DEAL WITH COUNTRIES THAT VIOLATE HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE HEMISPHERE, THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES, CHILE, COSTA RICA'S RECORD OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND INFLATION CONTROL FUTURE PROSPECTS FOR THE CACM, US/COSTA RICAN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS, ARMS CONTROL AND US NUCLEAR POLICY RE THE DEVELOPING WORLD. AS IN THE CASE OF MRS. CARTER AND AMBASSADOR YOUNG VISITS, ODUBER DWELT AT LENGTH ON THEME OF ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND POLITICAL COOPERATION THROUGHOUT GREATER CARIBBEAN; HIS THOUGHTFUL GEOPOLITICAL ANALYSIS WAS STIMULATING AND THE TAKE-OFF POINT FOR A LIVELY INTERCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH THE CODEL. IN SUM, THE MEETING WAS AS ENJOYABLE AS IT WAS WORTHWHILE, AND PROVED TO BE THE CENTERPIECE OF THE CODEL VISIT.
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